



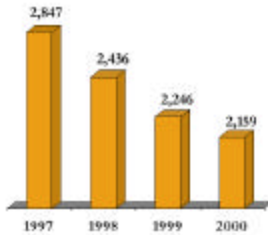
# 2000

## MICHIGAN JUDICIAL CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

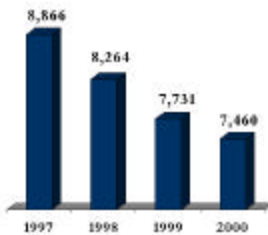
# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## MICHIGAN JUDICIAL CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS 2000

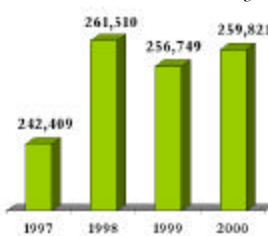
*Supreme Court: Trends in Filings*



*Court of Appeals: Trends in Filings*



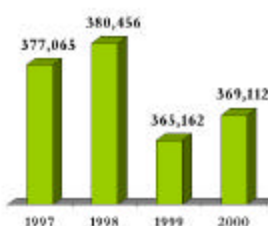
*Circuit Court: Family*



*Circuit Court: Non-family*



*Circuit Court: Total*



### MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT .....5

The Supreme Court is Michigan's highest court. Seven justices decide the cases that come before the Court during a term that runs from August 1 through July 31 of the following year. The Court primarily reviews cases appealed from the Michigan Court of Appeals. Oral arguments take place in Lansing beginning in October of each term. Decisions are released following oral arguments throughout the term.

*In 2000, 2,159 cases were filed in the Supreme Court. During the year, the Court completed 2,302 cases. Pending cases have been reduced from 2,162 in 1997 to 1,138 in 2000.*

### COURT OF APPEALS .....9

The 1963 Michigan Constitution established the Court of Appeals as an intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals' jurisdiction is established by state law. The court's practice and procedure are governed by Michigan court rules established by the Supreme Court.

*In 2000, 7,460 cases were filed in the Court of Appeals. During the year, the Court completed 7,779 cases.*

### CIRCUIT COURT .....12

The circuit court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan. The court has jurisdiction over all actions except those given by state law to another court. The circuit court's jurisdiction includes all civil cases involving more than \$25,000; all criminal cases where the offense involves a felony; certain serious misdemeanors; and all domestic relations cases.

In 2000, 369,112 cases were filed in the circuit court. Over a quarter of a million cases, or approximately 70% of all circuit filings, were filed in the family division of the circuit court in 2000. The remaining 30% were non-family division circuit court cases.

In 2000, there were more than 146,000 domestic relations filings, representing an increase of 22% since 1997. The change was largely due to increases in personal protection orders (PPOs). During 2000, courts reported 15,144 new filings for PPOs against stalking and 33,913 PPOs in domestic relationship situations.

Child protective proceeding petitions increased by 41% (see page 18) between 1997 and 2000. During the same period, delinquency cases decreased by 5%. Overall juvenile petitions

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## MICHIGAN JUDICIAL CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS 2000

decreased by 8% during the four-year period. In 2000, circuit court friend of the court offices had a statewide caseload of 831,893 and collected \$1,440,203,379 in support for Michigan families.

### PROBATE COURT .....20

The probate court hears cases pertaining to guardianships, conservatorships, the commitment for hospital care of the mentally ill, and administration of estates and trusts. In 2000, 79,026 cases were filed in the probate court. Supervised estate cases decreased by 65% (4,122), while independent estates cases increased by 19% (2,589).

### DISTRICT COURT .....24

Citizens have more contact with district court than any other court in the state. District court has jurisdiction of all civil litigation up to \$25,000 and handles garnishments, eviction proceedings, land contract mortgage foreclosures, and other proceedings. The district court handles all criminal misdemeanor cases where punishment does not exceed one year and conducts proceedings including arraignment, setting and acceptance of bail, trial, and sentencing. It also conducts preliminary examinations in felony cases.

The district court includes a small claims division for civil cases up to \$3,000. In 2000, there were 3,264,546 new filings in Michigan district courts. This represents an increase of 0.4% over the number of cases filed in 1997. Between 1997 and 2000, criminal filings in district court increased 16%, or by nearly 65,000 cases. During the same period, civil filings increased by over 38,000 cases or 9%.

### MUNICIPAL COURT .....31

Municipal court jurisdiction is limited to claims up to \$1,500 in civil cases or up to \$3,000 if approved by the court's local funding unit. Criminal traffic jurisdiction is the same as in district court. When the district court was created by statute in 1968, pursuant to the 1963 Michigan Constitution, most municipal courts in the state were converted into district courts. In 2000, 30,027 cases were filed in Michigan's five municipal courts.

*Circuit Court: Juvenile*



*Probate Court*



*District Court: Criminal*



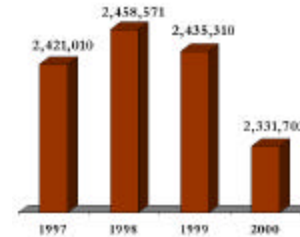
*District Court: Civil*



*Municipal Court: Total*

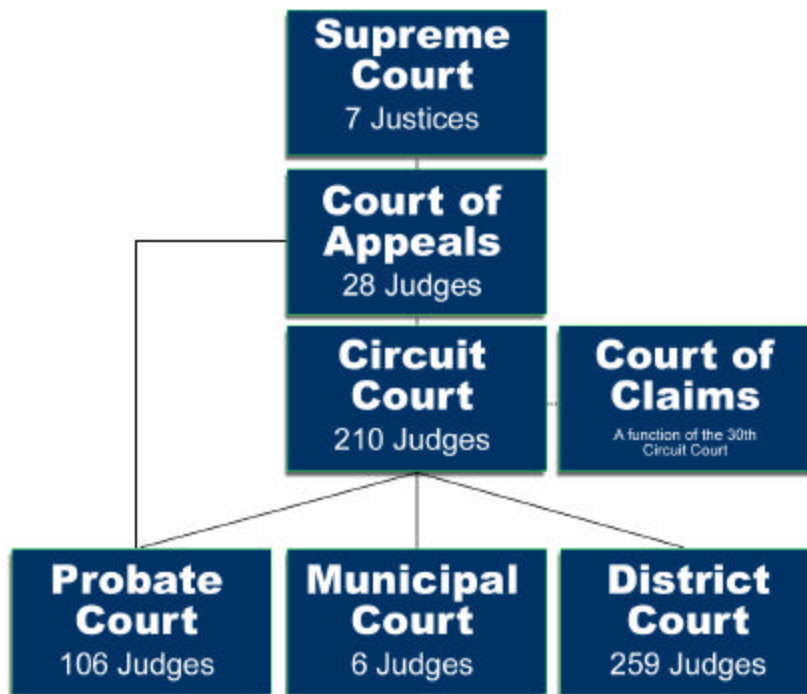


*District Court: Traffic*



# JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

*The primary function of the court system is to decide cases. In general, cases begin in the trial courts. Some categories of cases may be appealed to the Michigan Court of Appeals. The Michigan Supreme Court is the highest appellate court and hears appeals primarily from decisions of the Michigan Court of Appeals. On the following pages is a description of each court, along with statistical data tracking activity within the court in 2000 and in recent years.*



## JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

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### MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

#### BENCH IN 2000

##### Chief Justice

Elizabeth A. Weaver

##### Justices

Michael F. Cavanagh, Marilyn Kelly, Clifford W. Taylor, Maura D. Corrigan, Robert P. Young, Jr., Stephen J. Markman



#### BENCH IN 2000

*From left to right:*  
Justice Michael F. Cavanagh,  
Justice Maura D. Corrigan,  
Justice Stephen J. Markman,  
Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver,  
Justice Clifford W. Taylor,  
Justice Marilyn Kelly,  
Justice Robert P. Young, Jr.

## Michigan Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is Michigan's court of last resort, consisting of seven justices. Cases come before the Court during a term that runs from August 1 through July 31 of the following year. The Court hears oral arguments in Lansing beginning in October of each term. Decisions are released throughout the term, following oral arguments.

A Supreme Court justice is an elected official. A full term is eight years. Candidates are nominated by political parties and are elected on a non-partisan ballot. Two justices are elected every two years (one in the eighth year) in the November election. Supreme Court candidates must be qualified electors, licensed to practice law in Michigan, and at the time of election must be under 70 years of age. The salary of the justices is fixed by the State Officers Compensation Commission and paid by the state. Vacancies are filled by appointment of the governor until the next general election. Every two years, the justices of the Court elect a member of the Court as chief justice.

Each year, the Supreme Court receives over 2,000 applications for leave to appeal from litigants primarily seeking review of decisions by the Michigan Court of Appeals. Each justice is responsible for reviewing each case to determine whether leave should be granted. The Court issues a decision in all cases filed with the Clerk's Office. Cases that are not accepted for oral argument may be decided by an order, with or without an opinion. These orders may affirm or reverse the Michigan Court of Appeals, may remand a case to the trial court, or may adopt a correct Court of Appeals opinion. In these instances, the Court deems further briefing and oral argument unnecessary.

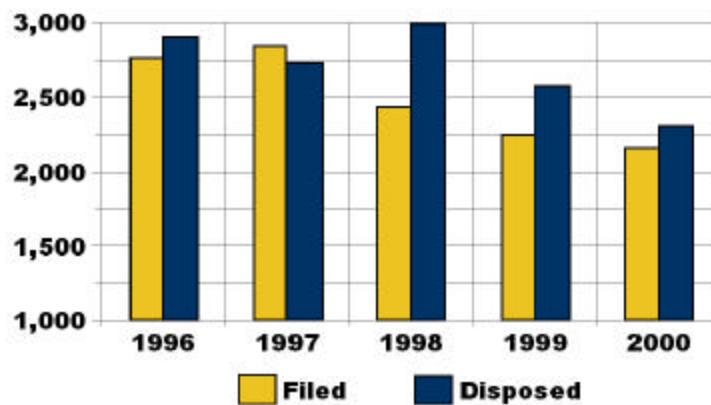
The Supreme Court's authority to hear cases is discretionary. The Court grants leave to those cases of greatest complexity and public import, where additional briefing and oral argument are essential to reaching a just outcome.

In 2000, there were 2,159 cases filed in the Supreme Court. During the year, the Court disposed of 2,302 cases. Of the 2,159 new filings, 41% were civil and 59% were criminal cases. The Court completed 143 more cases than were filed in 2000 and decreased the pending caseload. Pending cases have been reduced from 2,162 in 1997 to 1,138 in 2000.

## JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

### TRENDS IN SUPREME COURT CASES FILED AND DISPOSED

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Cases Filed	2,770	2,847	2,436	2,246	2,159



Cases Disposed	2,898	2,736	2,992	2,571	2,302
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In 2000, the Court issued 421 additional orders on motion matters as follows:

- 71 orders granting leave to appeal;
- 191 orders on motions for rehearing or reconsideration;
- 51 orders holding cases in abeyance, issued on the Court's own motion;
- 25 miscellaneous orders, including motions for bail, stay of proceedings, appointing a Master in Judicial Tenure Commission cases, to tax or not tax costs, etc.;
- 67 partial fee orders, etc;
- 80 orders issued by the Chief Justice — here commonly called “house-keeping orders” — including orders on motions to extend the time for filing briefs, to place on or withdraw a case from a session calendar, or for oral argument, etc.; and,
- 7 remands with jurisdiction retained.

In 2000, 2,159 cases were filed in the Supreme Court. During the year, the Court completed 2,302 cases. Pending cases have been reduced from 2,162 in 1997 to 1,138 in 2000.

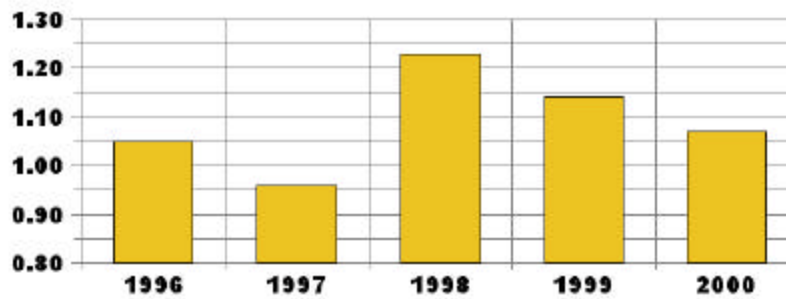


## MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

### TRENDS IN DISPOSITION RATE

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Disposition Rate*	1.05	.96	1.23	1.14	1.07

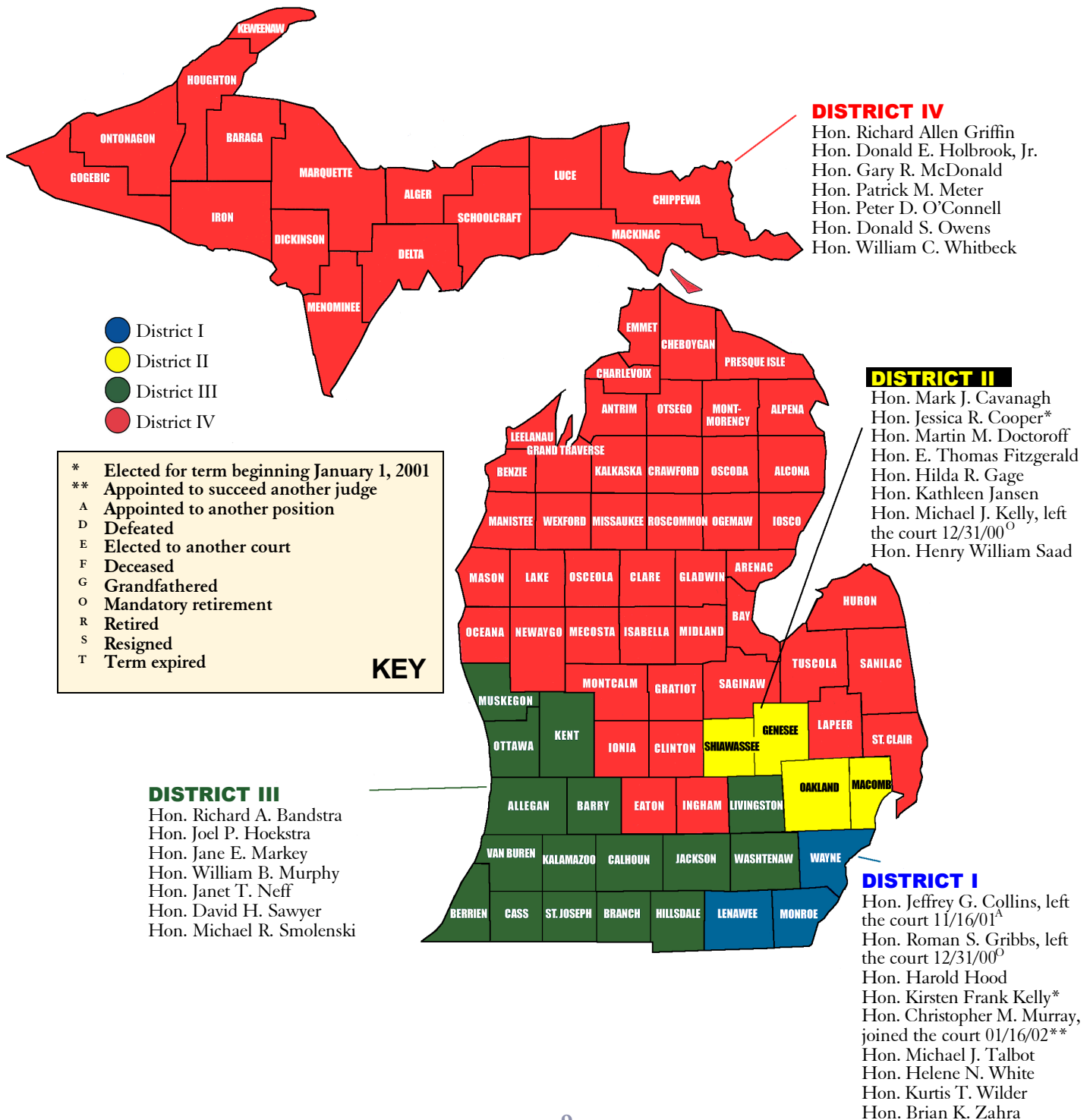
\*Cases disposed yearly per new filings received yearly





## JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

### MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS



### Michigan Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals is the intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Michigan Supreme Court. While the Court of Appeals was created by the 1963 Michigan Constitution, its jurisdiction is established by statute. The Court of Appeals practice and procedure are governed by Michigan court rules, which are set by the Supreme Court.

Court of Appeals judges are chosen in nonpartisan elections from four districts drawn by the Legislature on county lines. The districts are as nearly as possible of equal population. The Legislature may increase the number of judges and alter the districts from which they are elected by changing the state law. A candidate for the Court of Appeals must be a lawyer, under 70 years of age, a qualified elector, and a resident of the district in which the candidate is running.

Court of Appeals judges are elected for six-year terms. Their salaries are set by the Legislature. The Supreme Court chooses a chief judge for the Court of Appeals every two years.

Panels of Court of Appeals judges hear cases in Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Marquette. The panels are rotated to avoid the possibility that conflicting legal philosophies will develop in specific geographical areas. The decision of a Court of Appeals panel is final except for those cases that the Supreme Court reviews.

The Court of Appeals hears civil and criminal cases. Persons convicted of a criminal offense, other than by a guilty plea, have an appeal by right under the state constitution, if the appeal is filed in compliance with the court rule.

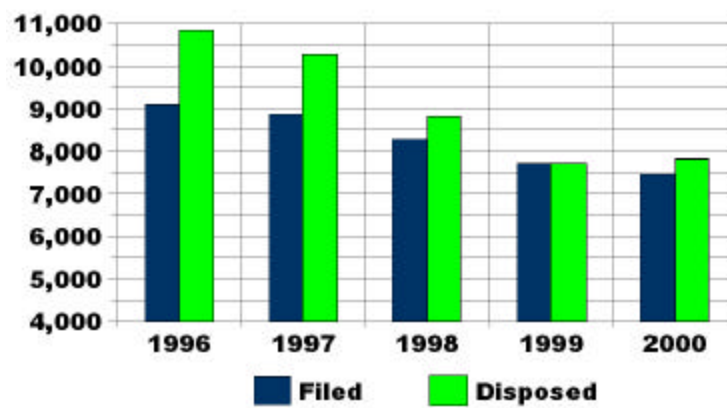
In 2000, 7,460 cases were filed with the Court of Appeals. This number represents a decrease of 4% (271) over the 7,731 cases filed in 1999.

In 2000, the Court of Appeals disposed of 7,799 cases, an increase of 1% (84) over the 7,715 cases disposed in 1999. Of the dispositions, 4,832 (62%) were by order and 2,967 (38%) were by opinion.

## JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

### TRENDS IN COURT OF APPEALS FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

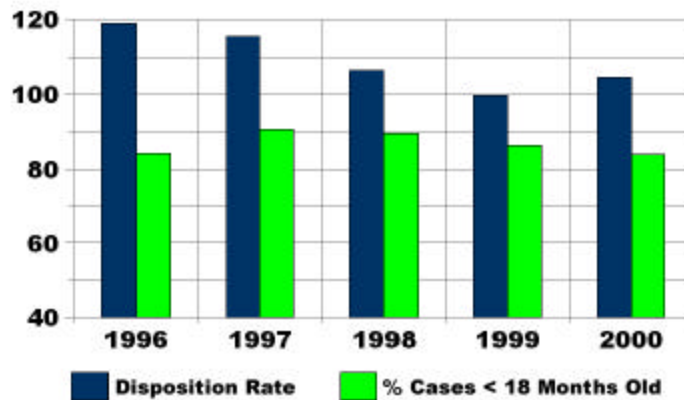
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Filed	9,108	8,866	8,264	7,731	7,460
Disposed	10,842	10,242	8,806	7,715	7,799



### TRENDS IN DISPOSITION RATE AND CASE AGE

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Disposition Rate*	119.04	115.52	106.56	99.79	104.54
% Cases < 18 Months Old	84.09	90.30	89.40	86.15	83.98

\*Cases disposed yearly per new filings received yearly



# CIRCUIT COURT

## C01

Hon. Michael R. Smith

## C02

Hon. John N. Fields  
Hon. Casper O. Grathwohl  
Hon. John T. Hammond  
Hon. Paul L. Maloney

## C03

Hon. Marianne O. Battani, left the court 06/08/00<sup>A</sup>  
Hon. Wendy M. Baxter  
Hon. Annette J. Berry\*  
Hon. Gregory D. Bill, joined the court 05/01/00\*\*  
Hon. Susan D. Borman  
Hon. Ulysses W. Boykin  
Hon. Margie R. Braxton  
Hon. Helen E. Brown  
Hon. William Leo Cahalan  
Hon. Bill Callahan  
Hon. Michael J. Callahan  
Hon. James R. Chylinski  
Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr.  
Hon. Sean F. Cox  
Hon. George W. Crockett, III  
Hon. Daphne Means Curtis  
Hon. Gershwin Allen Drain  
Hon. Maggie Drake  
Hon. Prentis Edwards  
Hon. Robert L. Evans  
Hon. Vonda R. Evans  
Hon. Sharon Tevis Finch, left the court 05/01/00<sup>R</sup>  
Hon. Patricia Susan Fresard  
Hon. John H. Gillis, Jr.  
Hon. William J. Giovan  
Hon. Richard B. Halloran, Jr.  
Hon. Pamela R. Harwood  
Hon. Amy Patricia Hathaway  
Hon. Cynthia Gray Hathaway  
Hon. Diane Marie Hathaway  
Hon. Michael M. Hathaway, joined the court 04/03/01\*\*  
Hon. Richard P. Hathaway  
Hon. Karen Fort Hood  
Hon. Thomas Edward Jackson  
Hon. Vera Massey Jones  
Hon. Kirsten Frank Kelly left the court 12/31/00<sup>E</sup>  
Hon. Mary Beth Kelly  
Hon. Timothy Michael Kenny  
Hon. Arthur J. Lombard  
Hon. William Lucas  
Hon. Kathleen I. Macdonald  
Hon. Sheila Gibson Manning  
Hon. Kathleen M. McCarthy\*  
Hon. Warfield Moore, Jr.  
Hon. Bruce U. Morrow

Hon. John A. Murphy  
Hon. Christopher M. Murray, joined the court 01/31/00\*\*; left the court 01/16/02<sup>A</sup>  
Hon. Susan Bieck Neilson  
Hon. John Patrick O'Brien, left the court 12/31/00<sup>O</sup>  
Hon. Lita Masini Popke, joined the court 06/30/00\*\*  
Hon. James J. Rashid  
Hon. Daniel P. Ryan  
Hon. Michael F. Sapala  
Hon. Louis F. Simmons, Jr.  
Hon. Jeanne Stempien  
Hon. Cynthia Diane Stephens  
Hon. Craig S. Strong  
Hon. Brian R. Sullivan  
Hon. Harvey F. Tennen  
Hon. Paul S. Teranes, left the court 12/31/00<sup>T</sup>  
Hon. Kaye Tertzag  
Hon. Deborah A. Thomas  
Hon. Edward M. Thomas  
Hon. Isidore B. Torres  
Hon. Leonard Townsend  
Hon. Mary M. Waterstone  
Hon. Kym L. Worthy  
Hon. Carole F. Youngblood  
Hon. Robert L. Ziolkowski

## C04

Hon. Edward J. Grant  
Hon. Charles A. Nelson  
Hon. Alexander C. Perlos  
Hon. Chad C. Schmucker

## C05

Hon. James H. Fisher

## C06

Hon. James M. Alexander, joined the court 09/04/01\*\*  
Hon. Steven N. Andrews  
Hon. David F. Breck, left the court 12/31/00<sup>O</sup>  
Hon. Patrick J. Brennan\*  
Hon. Rae Lee Chabot, joined the court 01/16/01\*\*  
Hon. Jessica R. Cooper, left the court 12/31/00<sup>E</sup>  
Hon. Alice L. Gilbert  
Hon. Nanci J. Grant  
Hon. Barry L. Howard, left the court 04/15/01<sup>R</sup>  
Hon. Richard D. Kuhn  
Hon. Denise Langford-Morris  
Hon. John James McDonald  
Hon. Fred M. Mester  
Hon. Rudy J. Nichols  
Hon. Colleen A. O'Brien  
Hon. Wendy Lynn Potts

Hon. Gene Schnelz  
Hon. Edward Sosnick  
Hon. Deborah G. Tyner  
Hon. Joan E. Young

## C07

Hon. Duncan M. Beagle  
Hon. Joseph J. Farah  
Hon. Judith A. Fullerton  
Hon. Archie L. Hayman  
Hon. Geoffrey L. Neithercut  
Hon. Robert M. Ransom  
Hon. Richard B. Yuille

## C08

Hon. David A. Hoort  
Hon. Charles H. Miel

## C09

Hon. Stephen D. Gorsalitz  
Hon. J. Richardson Johnson  
Hon. Richard Ryan Lamb  
Hon. Philip D. Schaefer  
Hon. William G. Schma

## C10

Hon. Fred L. Borchard  
Hon. Leopold P. Borrello  
Hon. William A. Crane  
Hon. Lynda L. Heathscott  
Hon. Robert L. Kaczmarek

## C11

Hon. Charles H. Stark

## C12

Hon. Garfield W. Hood

## C13

Hon. Thomas G. Power  
Hon. Philip E. Rodgers, Jr.

## C14

Hon. James M. Graves, Jr.  
Hon. Timothy G. Hicks  
Hon. William C. Marietti  
Hon. John C. Ruck

## C15

Hon. Michael H. Cherry

## C16

Hon. James M. Biernat, Sr., joined the court 04/14/00\*\*  
Hon. John B. Bruff, left the court 12/31/00<sup>O</sup>  
Hon. Lido V. Bucci, left the court 01/20/00<sup>F</sup>  
Hon. Mary A. Chrzanowski  
Hon. Pat M. Donofrio  
Hon. Peter J. Maceroni  
Hon. Donald G. Miller  
Hon. George E. Montgomery  
Hon. Michael D. Schwartz, left the court 12/31/00<sup>O</sup>

Hon. Deborah A. Servitto  
Hon. Edward A. Servitto, Jr.\*  
Hon. Mark S. Switalski\*

## C17

Hon. Robert A. Benson, left the court 01/31/00<sup>R</sup>  
Hon. George S. Buth

## C17

Hon. Kathleen A. Feeney, joined the court 03/27/00\*\*  
Hon. Donald A. Johnston, III  
Hon. Dennis C. Kolenda  
Hon. Dennis B. Leiber  
Hon. H. David Soet  
Hon. Paul J. Sullivan

## C18

Hon. Lawrence M. Bielawski  
Hon. William J. Caprathe  
Hon. Kenneth W. Schmidt

## C19

Hon. James M. Batzer

## C20

Hon. Calvin L. Bosman  
Hon. Wesley J. Nykamp  
Hon. Edward R. Post

## C21

Hon. Paul H. Chamberlain

## C22

Hon. Archie Cameron Brown  
Hon. Timothy P. Connors  
Hon. Melinda Morris  
Hon. Donald E. Shelton  
Hon. David S. Swartz

## C23

Hon. J. Richard Ernst

## C24

Hon. Donald A. Teeple

## C25

Hon. Thomas L. Solka  
Hon. John R. Weber

## C26

Hon. John F. Kowalski  
Hon. Joseph P. Swallow

## C27

Hon. Anthony A. Monton  
Hon. Terrence R. Thomas

## C28

Hon. Charles D. Corwin

## C29

Hon. Jeffrey L. Martlew  
Hon. Randy L. Tahvonen



## CIRCUIT COURT

### Circuit Court

The state is divided into 57 judicial circuits along county lines. The number of judges within a circuit is established by the Legislature, based on caseload and the need for a judge's services. In multi-county circuits, judges travel from one county to another to hold court sessions.

The circuit court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan. The court has jurisdiction over all actions except those given by state law to another court. Traditionally, the circuit court has had original jurisdiction in all civil cases involving more than \$10,000, in all criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain serious misdemeanors, and in all domestic relations cases, including divorce and paternity actions.

The Legislature raised the civil jurisdiction amount from \$10,000 to \$25,000 and created a family division in circuit court effective January 1, 1998. Under the 1996 legislation that established the division, family-related cases in probate court were transferred into the family division, and probate judges in many courts were assigned to the family division to cover the caseload. The family division handles divorces and ancillary matters, custody, parenting time, paternity, juvenile offenses, and abuse and neglect. It also handles emancipation of minors, personal protection orders, name changes, adoptions, and parental consent waivers. Circuit court also hears appeals from district court, probate court and administrative agencies.

Circuit judges are elected for terms of six years in nonpartisan elections. A candidate must be a qualified elector, a resident of the judicial circuit, a lawyer, and under 70 years of age. The Legislature sets the salary for circuit judges.

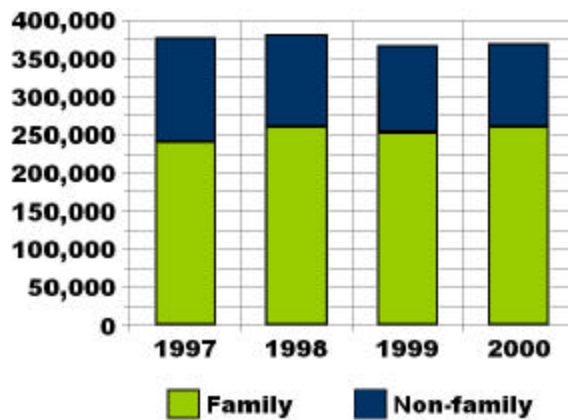
In 2000, 369,112 cases were filed in the circuit court.

#### TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Family	242,409	261,510	256,749	259,821
Nonfamily	134,656	118,946	108,413	109,291
<b>Total</b>	<b>377,065</b>	<b>380,456</b>	<b>365,162</b>	<b>369,112</b>

## JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

*Trends in Circuit Court Filings*



### TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL CASE FILINGS

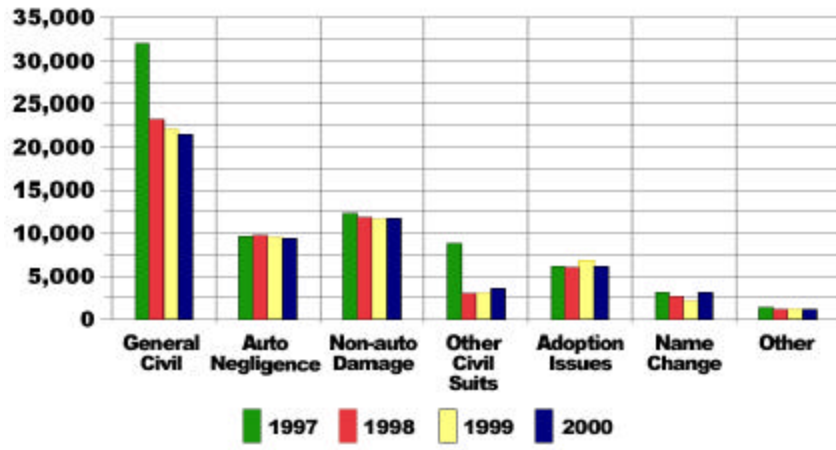
Case type	1997	1998	1999	2000
General Civil	32,052	23,223	22,015	21,460
Auto Negligence	9,645	9,687	9,495	9,381
Non-auto Damage	12,242	11,790	11,646	11,703
Other Civil Suits	8,780	2,988	3,039	3,572
Adoption Issues*	6,118	6,085	6,729	6,190
Waiver of Parental Consent	787	744	691	613
Name Change	3,188	2,625	2,058	3,066
Emancipated Minor	158	109	82	113
Court of Claims	351	290	344	331
Infectious Disease	2	6	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,323</b>	<b>57,547</b>	<b>56,100</b>	<b>56,433</b>

\* Does not represent the actual number of adoptions



## CIRCUIT COURT

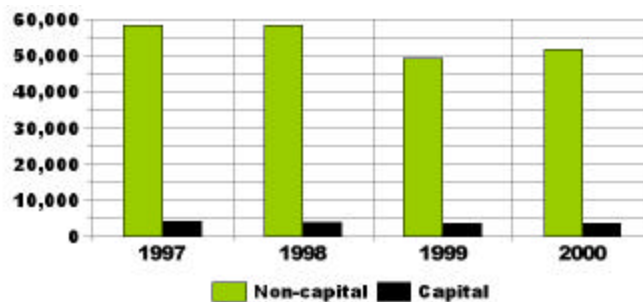
### *Trends in Circuit Court Civil Case Filings*



In 1999, the legislature increased the jurisdictional limits in property crime cases which resulted in a shift of some felony cases adjudicated in circuit court to remain misdemeanor cases adjudicated in district court. This resulted in a decrease of approximately 9,000 criminal case filings in circuit court.

### TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT CRIMINAL FILINGS

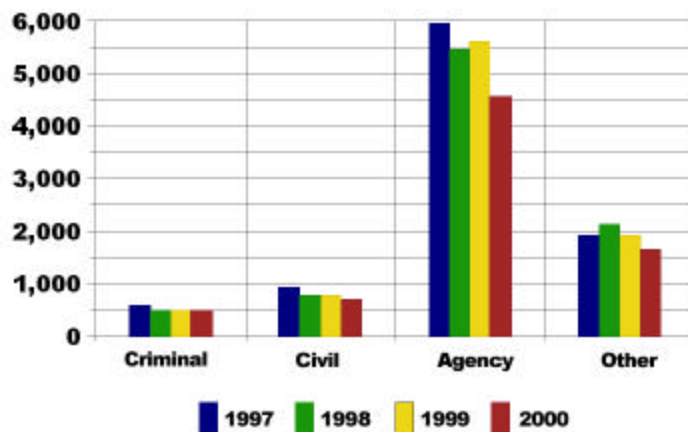
Case type	1997	1998	1999	2000
Non-capital	58,092	58,212	49,311	51,686
Capital	4,151	3,905	3,780	3,758
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,243</b>	<b>62,117</b>	<b>53,091</b>	<b>55,444</b>



## JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

### TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT APPEAL FILINGS

Case type	1997	1998	1999	2000
Criminal	561	497	496	484
Civil	918	765	757	687
Agency	5,951	5,458	5,607	4,572
Other	1,913	2,131	1,923	1,657
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,343</b>	<b>8,851</b>	<b>8,783</b>	<b>7,400</b>



The number of new appeals filed has declined over the last several years. The overall decline between 1997 and 2000 was 21%. Declines have occurred in all categories of appeals.

Tort reform resulted in an unusually large volume of civil case filings in 1996 as litigants moved to file cases before reform took effect. Following the passage of the reform legislation which was effective in 1996, tort filings declined to levels last seen over a decade ago.

### Family Division of Circuit Court

Over a quarter of a million cases were filed in the family division of the circuit court in 2000. Seventy percent of all circuit filings were family division cases, while 30% were non-family circuit court cases.

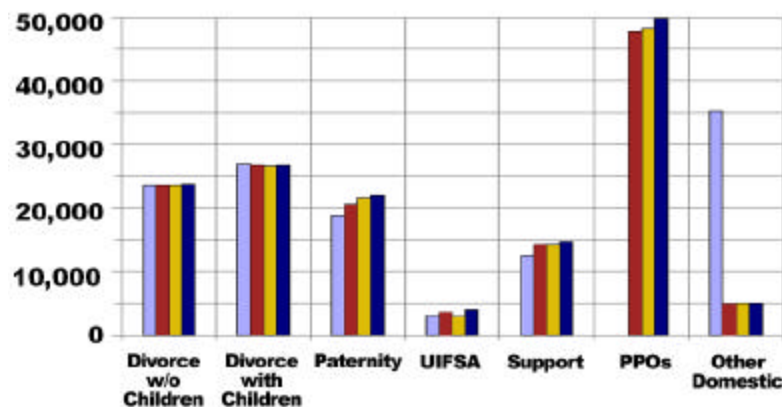
In 2000, there were more than 146,000 domestic relations filings, an increase of 22% since 1997. The change was largely due to increases in personal protection orders (PPOs). During 2000, courts reported 15,144 new filings for PPOs against stalking and 33,913 PPOs in domestic relationship situations.

## CIRCUIT COURT

### TRENDS IN DOMESTIC RELATIONS FILINGS

Case type	1997	1998	1999	2000
Divorce w/o children	23,566	23,571	23,663	23,760
Divorce with children	26,876	26,841	26,716	26,799
Paternity	18,830	20,521	21,493	21,940
UIFSA	3,046	3,575	2,970	4,043
Support	12,502	14,182	14,114	14,758
PPOs/Stalking <sup>1</sup>	N/A	17,640	16,660	15,144
PPOs/Domestic Relations <sup>1</sup>	N/A	30,168	31,563	33,913
Juvenile PPO's	N/A	N/A	N/A	875
Other Domestic <sup>1</sup>	35,311	4,771	4,983	4,903
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,131</b>	<b>141,269</b>	<b>142,162</b>	<b>146,135</b>

<sup>1</sup> Before 1998, PPOs were reported in the "other domestic" category.



Child protective proceeding petitions, which often require considerable court resources, increased by 41%\* between 1997 and 2000. During the same period, delinquency cases decreased by 5%. Overall juvenile petitions decreased by 8% during the four-year period.

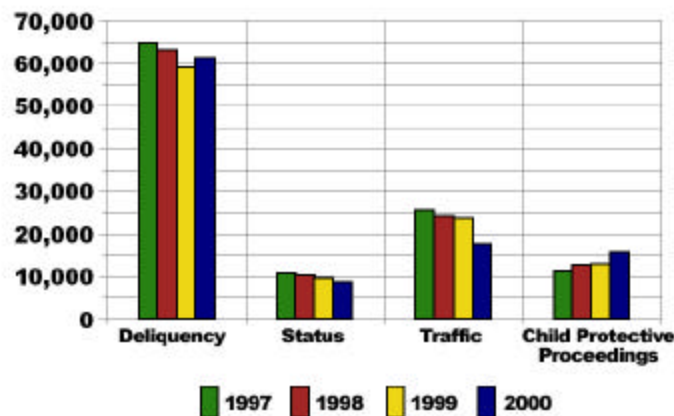
### TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT JUVENILE PETITION FILINGS

Case type	1997	1998	1999	2000
Delinquency	64,613	63,209	59,043	61,416
Status	10,726	10,323	9,625	8,753
Traffic	25,603	24,236	23,779	17,653
Child Protective Proceedings	11,085	12,910	12,883	15,638
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,027</b>	<b>110,678</b>	<b>105,330</b>	<b>103,460</b>

\* A variety of factors could contribute to the increase in child protective proceeding petitions including state and federal child welfare reforms enacted in 1997, increased substance abuse leading to more neglect and abuse of children, and changes in local practices leading to the filing of petitions for each child instead of an entire family. Factors which impact the caseload will vary across jurisdictions.

## JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

*Trends in Circuit Court Juvenile Petition Filings*



### Court of Claims

The jurisdiction of the Court of Claims, except as otherwise provided by law, extends over claims and demands against the State of Michigan or any of its departments, commissions, boards, institutions, arms or agencies, except those arising from line-of-duty injuries to state employees. Claimants may sue in the Court of Claims if the claim is for \$1,000 or more. The State Court Administrative Board is vested with discretionary authority in claims under \$1,000. By statute, the Court of Claims is a function of the 30th Judicial Circuit Court of Ingham County.

### Friend of the Court

The Friend of the Court office was created by statute in 1919. The Friend of the Court has the following duties according to law:

- investigate, report and make recommendations to the court regarding custody, parenting time, and support issues,
- provide mediation as another way of settling disagreements over custody and parenting time of children,
- collect, record, and distribute all support payments ordered by the court,
- enforce all custody, parenting-time, and support orders entered by the court.

In 2000, the Friend of the Court had a statewide caseload of 831,893 and collected \$1,440,203,379 in support for Michigan families.

# PROBATE COURT

---

**P01 Alcona County**

Hon. James H. Cook

**PD5 Alger & Schoolcraft Counties**

Hon. William W. Carmody, joined the court 02/07/00\*\*

Hon. William A. Werner, left the court 02/01/00<sup>R</sup>

**P03 Allegan County**

Hon. Michael L. Buck\*

Hon. George A. Greig, left the court 12/31/00<sup>T</sup>

**P04 Alpena County**

Hon. Douglas A. Pugh

**P05 Antrim County**

Hon. Norman R. Hayes\*

Hon. John W. Unger, left the court 12/31/00<sup>D</sup>

**P06 Arenac County**

Hon. Jack William Scully

**P07 Baraga County**

Hon. Timothy S. Brennan

**P08 Barry County**

Hon. Richard H. Shaw

**P09 Bay County**

Hon. Karen Tighe

**P10 Benzie County**

Hon. Nancy A. Kida

**P11 Berrien County**

Hon. Mabel Johnson Mayfield, joined the court 01/26/00\*\*

Hon. Stuart F. Meek, Jr., left the court 01/07/00<sup>R</sup>

Hon. Thomas E. Nelson

**P12 Branch County**

Hon. Frederick L. Wood

**P13 Calhoun County**

Hon. Phillip E. Harter

Hon. Gary K. Reed

**P14 Cass County**

Hon. Susan L. Dobrich

**PD7 Charlevoix & Emmet Counties**

Hon. Frederick R. Mulhauser

**P16 Cheboygan County**

Hon. Robert John Butts\*

Hon. Joseph P. Kwiatkowski, joined the court 01/18/00\*\*; left the court 12/31/00<sup>D</sup>

**P17 Chippewa County**

Hon. Lowell R. Ulrich

**PD17 Clare & Gladwin Counties**

Hon. Thomas P. McLaughlin

**P19 Clinton County**

Hon. Marvin E. Robertson

**P20 Crawford County**

Hon. John G. Hunter

**P21 Delta County**

Hon. Robert E. Goebel, Jr.

**P22 Dickinson County**

Hon. Robert G. Foster, left the court 12/31/00<sup>T</sup>

Hon. John A. Torreano\*

**P23 Eaton County**

Hon. Michael F. Skinner\*

Hon. James L. Theophilis, left the court 12/31/00<sup>D</sup>

**PD7 Charlevoix & Emmet Counties**

Hon. Frederick R. Mulhauser

**P25 Genesee County**

Hon. Thomas L. Gadola

Hon. Allen J. Nelson

Hon. Bruce A. Newman, left the court 12/31/01<sup>F</sup>

**PD17 Clare & Gladwin Counties**

Hon. Thomas P. McLaughlin

**P27 Gogebic County**

Hon. Joel L. Massie

**P28 Grand Traverse County**

Hon. John D. Foresman, left the court 12/31/00<sup>T</sup>

Hon. David L. Stowe\*

**P29 Gratiot County**

Hon. Jack T. Arnold

**P30 Hillsdale County**

Hon. Albert J. Neukom

**P31 Houghton County**

Hon. John A. Mikkola

**P32 Huron County**

Hon. David L. Clabuesch

**P33 Ingham County**

Hon. R. George Economy  
Hon. Richard Joseph Garcia, joined the court 02/01/00\*\*

**P34 Ionia County**

Hon. Gerald J. Supina

**P35 Iosco County**

Hon. John D. Hamilton

**P36 Iron County**

Hon. C. Joseph Schwedler

**P37 Isabella County**

Hon. William T. Ervin

**P38 Jackson County**

Hon. Susan E. Vandercook

**P39 Kalamazoo County**

Hon. Patricia N. Conlon

Hon. Donald R. Halstead

Hon. Carolyn H. Williams

**P40 Kalkaska County**

Hon. Lynne Marie Buday

**P41 Kent County**

Hon. Nanaruth H. Carpenter

Hon. Patricia D. Gardner

Hon. Janet A. Haynes

Hon. G. Patrick Hillary\*

Hon. John P. Steketee, left the court 12/31/00<sup>O</sup>

**P42 Keweenaw County**

Hon. James G. Jaaskelainen

**P43 Lake County**

Hon. Mark S. Wickens

**P44 Lapeer County**

Hon. Clayton E. Preisel, left the court 12/31/00<sup>O</sup>

Hon. Justus C. Scott\*

**P45 Leelanau County**

Hon. Joseph E. Deegan

**P46 Lenawee County**

Hon. Charles W. Jameson

**P47 Livingston County**

Hon. Susan L. Reck

**PD6 Luce & Mackinac Counties**

Hon. Thomas B. North

**P50 Macomb County**

Hon. James F. Nowicki

Hon. Pamela Gilbert

O'Sullivan

Hon. Antonio P. Viviano

**P51 Manistee County**

Hon. John R. DeVries

**P52 Marquette County**

Hon. Michael J. Anderegg

**P53 Mason County**

Hon. Mark D. Raven

**PD18 Mecosta & Osceola Counties**

Hon. LaVail E. Hull

**P55 Menominee County**

Hon. William A. Hupy

**P56 Midland County**

Hon. Dorene S. Allen\*

Hon. Donna T. Morris, left the court 12/31/00<sup>T</sup>

**P57 Missaukee County**

Hon. Frederick S. Krupp, left the court 12/31/00<sup>D</sup>

Hon. Charles R. Parsons\*

**P58 Monroe County**

Hon. John A. Hohman, Jr.

Hon. Pamela A. Moskwa

**P59 Montcalm County**

Hon. Edward L. Skinner

**P60 Montmorency County**

Hon. Robert P.M. Nordstrom

**P61 Muskegon County**

Hon. Neil G. Mullally

Hon. Gregory Christopher Pittman

**P62 Newaygo County**

Hon. Graydon W. Dimkoff

**P63 Oakland County**

Hon. Barry M. Grant

Hon. Linda S. Hallmark

Hon. Eugene Arthur Moore

Hon. Elizabeth M. Pezzetti, joined the court 01/29/01\*\*

Hon. Sandra G. Silver, left the court 07/01/00<sup>S</sup>

**P64 Oceana County**

Hon. Walter A. Urick

**P65 Ogemaw County**

Hon. Eugene I. Turkelson

**P66 Ontonagon County**

Hon. Joseph D. Zeleznik

**PD18 Mecosta & Osceola Counties**

Hon. LaVail E. Hull

**P68 Oscoda County**

Hon. Kathryn Joan Root

**P69 Otsego County**

Hon. Michael K. Cooper, joined the court 03/24/00\*\*

Hon. Richard J. Liedel, left the court 01/31/00<sup>R</sup>

**P70 Ottawa County**

Hon. Mark A. Feyen

**P71 Presque Isle County**

Hon. Kenneth A. Radzibon

**P72 Roscommon County**

Hon. Douglas C. Dosson

**P73 Saginaw County**

Hon. Faye M. Harrison

Hon. Patrick J. McGraw

**P74 St. Clair County**

Hon. Elwood L. Brown

Hon. John R. Monaghan

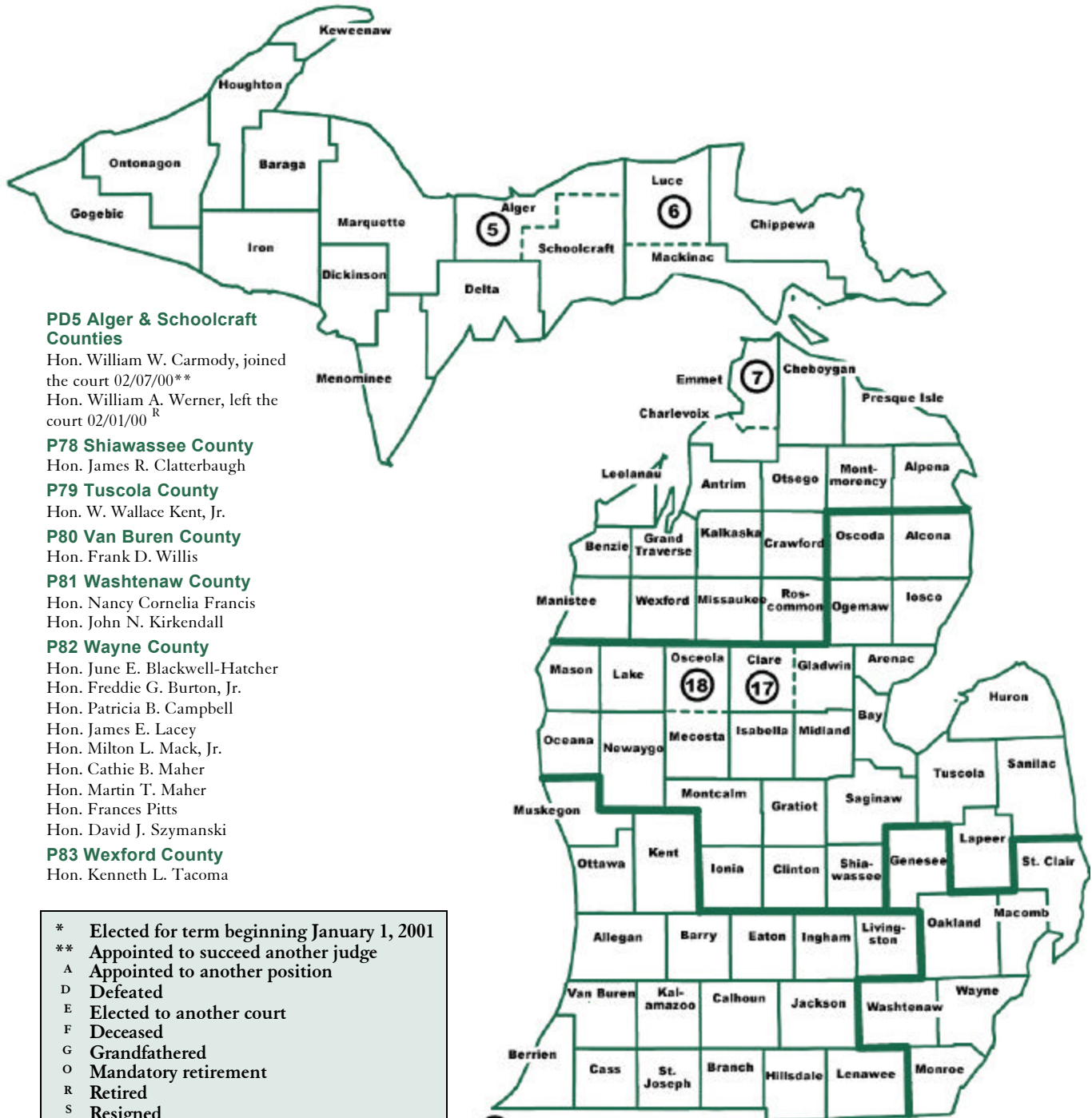
**P75 St. Joseph County**

Hon. Thomas E. Shumaker

**P76 Sanilac County**

Hon. R. Terry Maltby

## JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD



- \* Elected for term beginning January 1, 2001
- \*\* Appointed to succeed another judge
- A Appointed to another position
- D Defeated
- E Elected to another court
- F Deceased
- G Grandfathered
- O Mandatory retirement
- R Retired
- S Resigned
- T Term expired

**KEY**

○ Probate Court District Number for multi-county Probate courts

### **Probate Court**

Each Michigan county has a probate court, with the exception of ten counties which have consolidated to form five probate court districts. Each district has one judge, and each of the remaining counties have one or more judges depending in large part on the population and caseload within the county.

The probate court traditionally has had exclusive jurisdiction in such matters as juvenile delinquency, abuse and neglect, adoptions, administration of estates and trusts, guardianships and conservatorships, and mental commitments.

In 1998, the Legislature created the family division in the circuit court and moved juvenile delinquency, abuse and neglect, infectious disease, adoptions, name changes, emancipations of minors, waivers of parental consent, and other ancillary family matters from the probate court to the circuit court. The probate court now hears cases pertaining to guardianships, conservatorships, the commitment for hospital care of the mentally ill, and administration of estates and trusts.

Probate judges are elected on a nonpartisan ballot for six-year terms, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets the salary for probate judges.

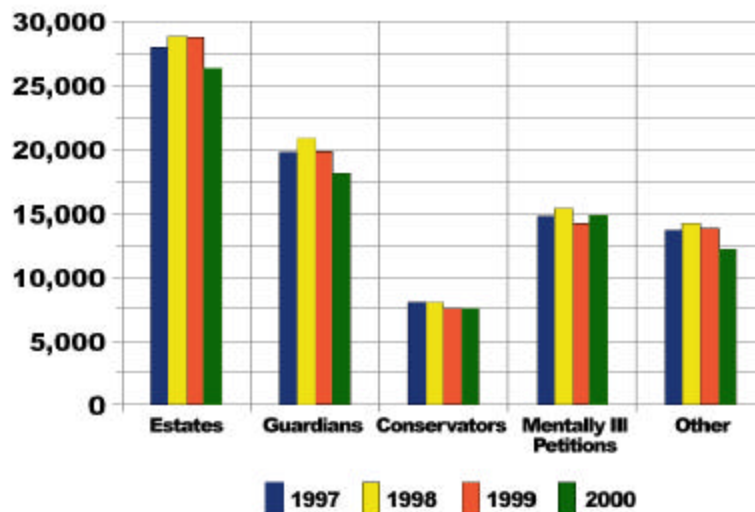
In many courts, probate judges were assigned to the circuit court in order to cover the caseload in the family division.



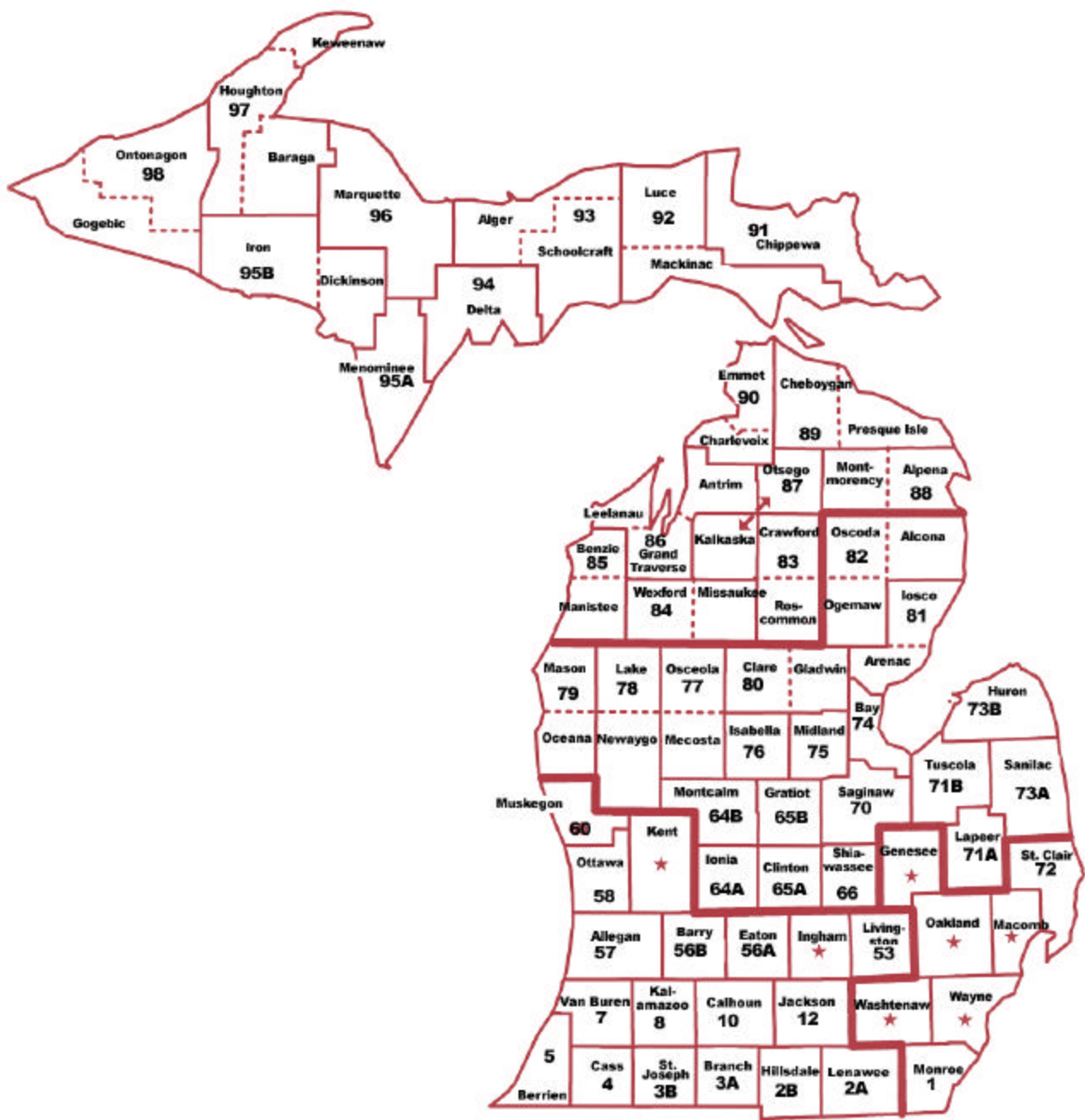
## JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

### PROBATE COURT: TRENDS IN NEW FILINGS

Case Type	1997	1998	1999	2000
Supervised Estates	6,344	6,170	5,985	2,269
Independent Estates	13,513	14,548	14,831	16,453
Trusts	613	784	747	825
Guardians DDP	2,479	2,591	2,486	1,912
Limited Guardians	2,967	2,958	2,818	2,688
Other Guardians	14,368	15,382	14,552	13,564
Conservators	8,024	7,999	7,532	7,481
Civil Actions	222	299	296	302
Judicial & Administrative Admissions DDP	47	54	38	57
Mentally Ill Petitions	14,774	15,394	14,227	14,819
Assignment of Property	8,096	8,110	7,972	7,568
Protective Orders	247	243	249	381
Marriages	509	543	508	525
Safe Deposit Box	282	275	243	299
Safekeeping Trust & Wills	11,763	12,050	11,781	9,826
Appeals to Probate Court	11	11	3	7
Determine Heirs	120	72	23	50
Total	84,379	87,483	84,291	79,026

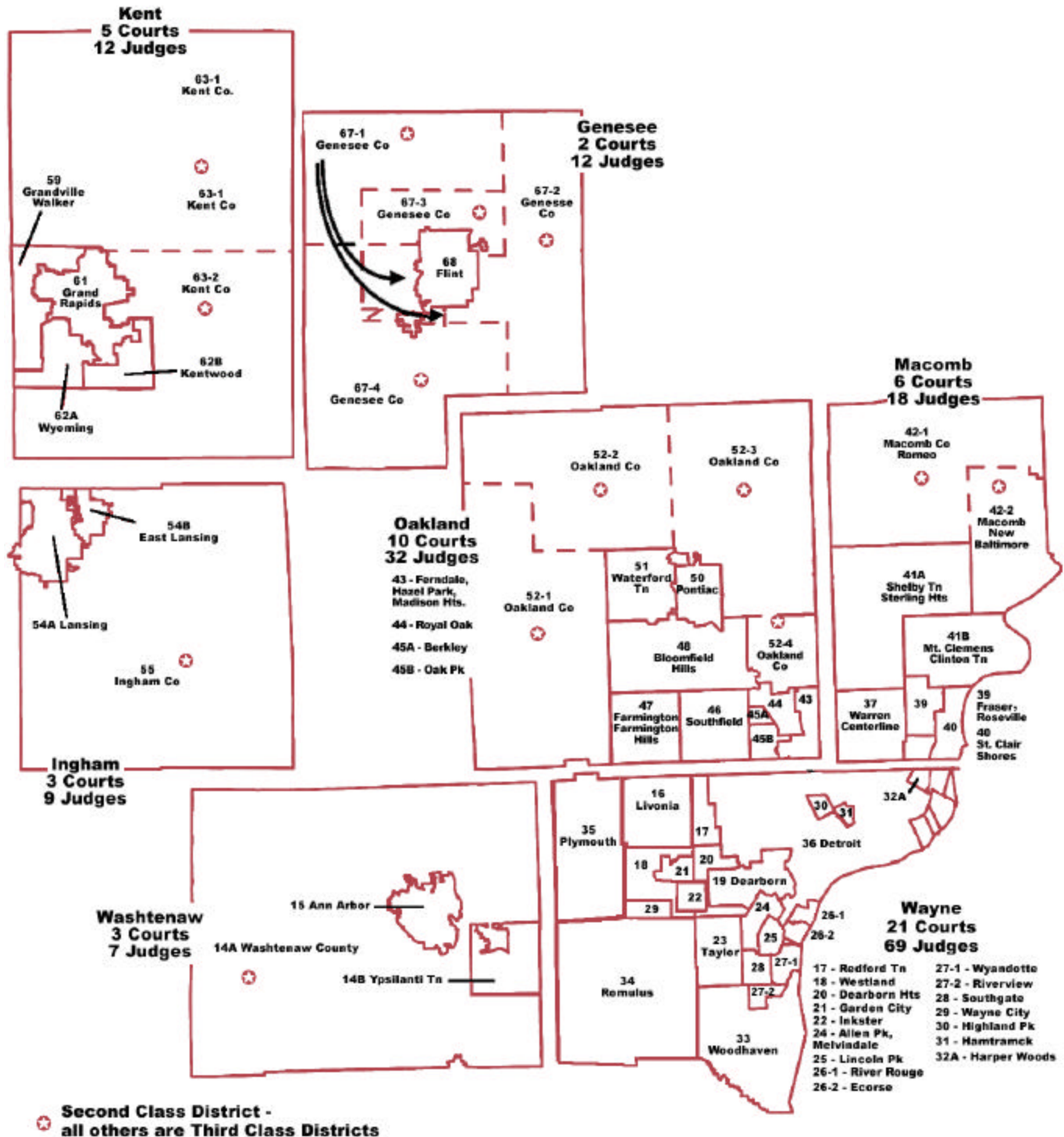


# DISTRICT COURT



★ See detail map

## SECOND & THIRD CLASS DISTRICT COURTS



# DISTRICT COURT

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## D01

Hon. Paul E. Braunlich  
Hon. Terrence P. Bronson  
Hon. Jack Vitale

## D02A

Hon. Natalia M. Koselka  
Hon. James E. Sheridan

## D02B

Hon. Donald L. Sanderson

## D03A

Hon. David T. Coyle

## D03B

Hon. William L. McManus  
Hon. William D. Welty

## D04

Hon. Paul E. Deats

## D05

Hon. Gary J. Bruce  
Hon. Angela Pasula  
Hon. Scott Schofield  
Hon. Lynda A. Tolen  
Hon. Dennis M. Wiley

## D07

Hon. Ward S. Hamlin, Jr.  
Hon. Robert T. Hentchel

## D08-1

Hon. Quinn E. Benson  
Hon. James P. Coyle, left the  
court 03/01/00<sup>R</sup>  
Hon. Ann L. Hannon  
Hon. Carol A. Husum

## D08-2

Hon. Robert C. Kropf

## D08-3

Hon. Paul J. Bridenstine,  
joined the court 03/01/00\*\*  
Hon. Richard A. Santoni  
Hon. Vincent C. Westra

## D10

Hon. Samuel I. Durham, Jr.  
Hon. John R. Holmes  
Hon. Franklin K. Line, Jr.  
Hon. Marvin Ratner

## D12

Hon. Charles J. Falahee, Jr.  
Hon. Lysle G. Hall  
Hon. James M. Justin  
Hon. Carlene G. Lefere

## D14A

Hon. Richard E. Conlin  
Hon. J. Cedric Simpson  
Hon. Kirk W. Tabbey

## D14B

Hon. John B. Collins

## D15

Hon. Julie Creal Goodridge  
Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines  
Hon. Ann E. Mattson

## D16

Hon. Robert B. Brzezinski  
Hon. Kathleen J. McCann

## D17

Hon. Karen Khalil Bouzas  
Hon. Charlotte L. Wirth

## D18

Hon. C. Charles Bokos  
Hon. Gail McKnight

## D19

Hon. William C. Hultgren  
Hon. William J. Runco  
Hon. Virginia A. Sobotka

## D20

Hon. Leo K. Foran  
Hon. Mark J. Plawewski

## D21

Hon. Richard L. Hammer, Jr.

## D22

Hon. Sylvia A. James

## D23

Hon. Anthony Nicita, left the  
court 12/31/00<sup>O</sup>  
Hon. Geno Salomone\*  
Hon. William J. Sutherland

## D24

Hon. John T. Courtright,  
joined the court 09/18/00\*\*  
Hon. Michael T. Russell, left  
the court 06/01/00<sup>R</sup>  
Hon. Gerard Trudel

## D25

Hon. David A. Bajorek  
Hon. Joseph H. DeLaurentiis

## D26-1

Hon. Raymond A. Charron

## D26-2

Hon. Michael F. Ciungan

## D27-1

Hon. Randy L. Kalmbach

## D27-2

Hon. Glenn C. Valasco

## D28

Hon. James A. Kandrevas

## D29

Hon. Carolyn A. Archbold

## D30

Hon. William F. Bledsoe  
Hon. L. Kim Hoagland

## D31

Hon. Patrick T. Cahill, left the  
court 10/21/01<sup>R</sup>

Hon. Paul J. Paruk

## D32A

Hon. Roger J. La Rose

## D33

Hon. James Kurt Kersten  
Hon. Michael K. McNally  
Hon. Donald L. Swank

## D34

Hon. Tina Brooks Green  
Hon. Brian A. Oakley  
Hon. William J. Szlinis

## D35

Hon. Ronald W. Lowe  
Hon. John E. MacDonald

## D36

Hon. Deborah Ross Adams  
Hon. Trudy DunCombe Archer  
Hon. Marilyn E. Atkins  
Hon. Joseph N. Baltimore  
Hon. Nancy McCaughan  
Blount

Hon. David Martin Bradfield

Hon. Izetta F. Bright

Hon. Donald Coleman

Hon. Wendy Cooley, left the  
court 05/01/00<sup>R</sup>

Hon. Theresa Doss

Hon. Norma Y. Dotson

Hon. Nancy A. Farmer

Hon. Ruth Ann Garrett\*

Hon. Claudia Lauchie' Gartin,  
left the court 01/31/00<sup>S</sup>

Hon. Jimmylee Gray

Hon. Paula G. Humphries

Hon. Patricia L. Jefferson

Hon. Vanesa F. Jones-Bradley

Hon. Deborah L. Langston

Hon. Willie G. Lipscomb, Jr.

Hon. Leona Lloyd, left the  
court 06/09/01<sup>F</sup>

Hon. Leonia J. Lloyd

Hon. Miriam B. Martin-Clark

Hon. Wade H. McCree

Hon. Donna R. Milhouse,  
joined the court 02/07/00\*\*

Hon. Marion A. Moore

Hon. Lydia Nance Adams

Hon. Jeanette O'Banner-Owens

Hon. Maria L. Oxholm

Hon. John R. Perry

Hon. Mark A. Randon, joined  
the court 03/12/01\*\*

Hon. David S. Robinson, Jr.,  
joined the court 09/04/01\*\*

Hon. C. Lorene Royster

Hon. Chris E. Stith, left the  
court 12/31/00<sup>T</sup>

Hon. Ted Wallace

## D37

Hon. John M. Chmura  
Hon. Susan R. Chrzanowski  
Hon. Dawnn M. Gruenburg  
Hon. Walter A. Jakubowski, Jr.

## D39

Hon. Joseph F. Boedeker  
Hon. Peter H. Mytnyk, joined  
the court 03/13/01\*\*  
Hon. Marco A. Santia  
Hon. Mark S. Switalski, left the  
court 12/31/00<sup>E</sup>

## D40

Hon. William A. Crouchman,  
left the court 12/31/00<sup>D</sup>  
Hon. Mark A. Fratarcangeli\*  
Hon. Joseph Craigen Oster

## D41A

Hon. Herman C. Campbell,  
left the court 12/31/00<sup>O</sup>  
Hon. Kenneth J. Kosnic  
Hon. Michael S. Maceroni  
Hon. Douglas P. Shepherd\*  
Hon. Stephen S. Sierawski

## D41B

Hon. William H. Cannon  
Hon. Linda Davis, joined the  
court 04/10/00\*\*  
Hon. John C. Foster  
Hon. James A. Scandirito, left  
the court 01/07/00<sup>S</sup>

## D42-1

Hon. Richard D. McLean

## D42-2

Hon. Paul Cassidy

## D43

Hon. Keith P. Hunt  
Hon. Joseph Longo  
Hon. Robert J. Turner

## D44

Hon. Terrence H. Brennan  
Hon. Daniel Sawicki

## D45A

Hon. William R. Sauer

## D45B

Hon. Marvin F. Frankel  
Hon. Benjamin J. Friedman

## D46

Hon. Stephen C. Cooper  
Hon. Bryan Howard Levy  
Hon. Susan M. Moiseev

## D47

Hon. Frederick L. Harris  
Hon. Marla E. Parker

## D48

Hon. Edward Avadenka  
Hon. Gus Cifelli, left the court  
12/31/00<sup>O</sup>  
Hon. Diane D'Agostini\*  
Hon. Kimberly Small

## JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

### D50

Hon. Leo Bowman  
Hon. Christopher C. Brown  
Hon. Preston G. Thomas  
Hon. William Waterman

### D51

Hon. Kenneth H. Hempstead  
Hon. Phyllis C. McMillen

### D52-1

Hon. Michael Batchik  
Hon. Brian W. MacKenzie  
Hon. Dennis N. Powers

### D52-2

Hon. Gerald E. McNally

### D52-3

Hon. Lisa L. Asadoorian\*  
Hon. Nancy Tolwin Carniak,  
joined the court 01/31/00\*\*  
Hon. Ralph H. Nelson, left the  
court 12/31/00<sup>D</sup>  
Hon. Julie A. Nicholson  
Hon. James P. Sheehy, left the  
court 01/07/00<sup>R</sup>

### D52-4

Hon. William E. Bolle  
Hon. Dennis C. Drury  
Hon. Michael A. Martone

### D53

Hon. Frank R. Del Vero  
Hon. Michael K. Hegarty  
Hon. A. John Pikkarainen

### D54A

Hon. Louise Alderson, joined  
the court 08/13/01\*\*  
Hon. Patrick F. Cherry  
Hon. Frank J. DeLuca\*  
Hon. Charles F. Filice  
Hon. Paula J. M. Manderfield,  
left the court 12/31/00<sup>E</sup>  
Hon. Beverly Renee Nettles-  
Nickerson  
Hon. James J. Wood, left the  
court 12/31/00<sup>T</sup>

### D54B

Hon. Richard D. Ball  
Hon. David L. Jordan

### D55

Hon. Thomas E. Brennan, Jr.  
Hon. Pamela J. McCabe

### D56A

Hon. Paul F. Berger  
Hon. Harvey J. Hoffman

### D56B

Hon. Gary R. Holman

### D57

Hon. Stephen E. Sheridan  
Hon. Gary A. Stewart

### D58

Hon. Susan A. Jonas  
Hon. Richard J. Kloote  
Hon. Hannes Meyers, Jr.  
Hon. Kenneth D. Post

### D59

Hon. Peter P. Versluis

### D60

Hon. Fredric A. Grimm, Jr.  
Hon. Michael Jeffrey Nolan  
Hon. Richard J. Pasarella  
Hon. Andrew Wierengo

### D61

Hon. Patrick C. Bowler  
Hon. David J. Buter  
Hon. J. Michael Christensen  
Hon. Jeanine Nemesi LaVile  
Hon. Ben H. Logan, II  
Hon. Donald H. Passenger

### D62A

Hon. Jack R. Jelsema  
Hon. Richard H. Timmers, left  
the court 12/31/00<sup>T</sup>  
Hon. Steven M. Timmers\*

### D62B

Hon. William G. Kelly

### D63-1

Hon. Steven R. Servaas

### D63-2

Hon. Sara J. Smolenski

### D64A

Hon. Raymond P. Voet

### D64B

Hon. Donald R. Hemingsen

### D65A

Hon. Richard D. Wells

### D65B

Hon. James B. Mackie

### D66

Hon. Ward L. Clarkson  
Hon. Terrance P. Dignan

### D67-1

Hon. Arthalu Lancaster, left the  
court 01/15/02<sup>R</sup>

### D67-2

Hon. John L. Conover  
Hon. Richard L. Hughes

### D67-3

Hon. Larry Stecco

### D67-4

Hon. Mark C. McCabe  
Hon. Christopher Odette

### D68

Hon. Peter Anastor  
Hon. Raymond J. Branch, left  
the court 12/31/00<sup>D</sup>

Hon. William H. Crawford, II  
Hon. Herman Marable, Jr.\*  
Hon. Michael D. McAra  
Hon. Nathaniel C. Perry, III  
Hon. Ramona M. Roberts

### D70-1

Hon. Terry L. Clark  
Hon. Joseph G. DeFrancesco  
Hon. M. T. Thompson, Jr.

### D70-2

Hon. Christopher S. Boyd  
Hon. Darnell Jackson, joined  
the court 02/05/01\*\*  
Hon. Bruce J. Scorsone, left the  
court 11/01/00<sup>R</sup>  
Hon. Kyle Higgs Tarrant

### D71A

Hon. Laura Cheger Barnard  
Hon. John T. Connolly

### D71B

Hon. Kim David Glaspie

### D72

Hon. Richard A. Cooley, Jr.  
Hon. John G. Cummings  
Hon. David C. Nicholson

### D73A

Hon. James A. Marcus

### D73B

Hon. Karl E. Kraus

### D74

Hon. Craig D. Alston  
Hon. Timothy J. Kelly\*  
Hon. John C. Leaming, left the  
court 12/31/00<sup>T</sup>  
Hon. Scott J. Newcombe

### D75

Hon. John Henry Hart  
Hon. James E. Wilson

### D76

Hon. William R. Rush

### D77

Hon. Susan H. Grant

### D78

Hon. H. Kevin Drake

### D79

Hon. John R. Carney, Jr.

### D80

Hon. Gary J. Allen

### D81

Hon. Allen C. Yenior

### D82

Hon. Richard E. Noble

### D83

Hon. Francis L. Walsh

### D84

Hon. David A. Hogg

### D85

Hon. Brent V. Danielson

### D86

Hon. Thomas S. Gilbert\*  
Hon. Michael J. Haley  
Hon. Norman R. Hayes, joined  
the court 03/26/00<sup>G</sup>; left the  
court 12/31/00<sup>E</sup>  
Hon. James R. McCormick, left  
the court 12/31/00<sup>T</sup>  
Hon. Thomas J. Phillips\*

### D87

Hon. Patricia A. Morse  
Hon. Norman R. Hayes, left  
the court 03/26/00<sup>G</sup>

### D88

Hon. Theodore O. Johnson

### D89

Hon. Harold A. Johnson, Jr.

### D90

Hon. Richard W. May

### D91

Hon. Michael W. MacDonald

### D92

Hon. Steven E. Ford

### D93

Hon. Bruce E. Plackowski

### D94

Hon. Robert J. DeGrand

### D95A

Hon. Jeffrey G. Barstow

### D95B

Hon. Michael J. Kusz

### D96

Hon. James M. Collins  
Hon. Dennis H. Girard, joined  
the court 08/07/00\*\*  
Hon. Patricia L. Micklow, left  
the court 06/01/00<sup>R</sup>

### D97

Hon. Phillip L. Kukkonen

### D98

Hon. Anders B. Tingstad, Jr.

*	Elected for term beginning January 1, 2001
**	Appointed to succeed another judge
A	Appointed to another position
D	Defeated
E	Elected to another court
F	Deceased
G	Grandfathered
O	Mandatory retirement
R	Retired
S	Resigned
T	Term expired

**KEY**

## DISTRICT COURT

### District Court

Citizens have more contact with district court than any other court in the state. District court has exclusive jurisdiction of all civil litigation up to \$25,000 and handles garnishments, eviction proceedings, land contract and mortgage foreclosures, and other proceedings. In the criminal field, the district court handles all misdemeanors where punishment does not exceed one year and relevant proceedings including arraignment, setting and acceptance of bail, trial, and sentencing. It also conducts preliminary examinations in felony cases.

The district court includes a small claims division for civil cases up to \$3,000. In these cases, litigants agree to waive their right to a jury. They also agree to waive rules of evidence, representation by a lawyer, and the right to appeal from the district judge's decision. If either party objects, the case will be heard by the general civil division of the district court.

By statute, district judges have authority to appoint magistrates. Magistrates may 1) set bail and accept bond in criminal matters, 2) accept guilty pleas, and 3) sentence for traffic, motor carrier, and snow-mobile violations and dog, game, and marine law violations. The magistrate may also issue arrest and search warrants authorized by the prosecutor or municipal attorney. Attorney magistrates may hear small claims cases. Magistrates may, at the direction of the chief judge, perform other duties allowed by statute.

District judges are elected for six-year terms on nonpartisan ballots, under the same requirements as circuit judges. The Legislature sets the salary for district judges.

In 2000, there were 3,264,546 new filings in Michigan district courts. This number represents an increase of 0.4% over the number of cases filed in 1997.

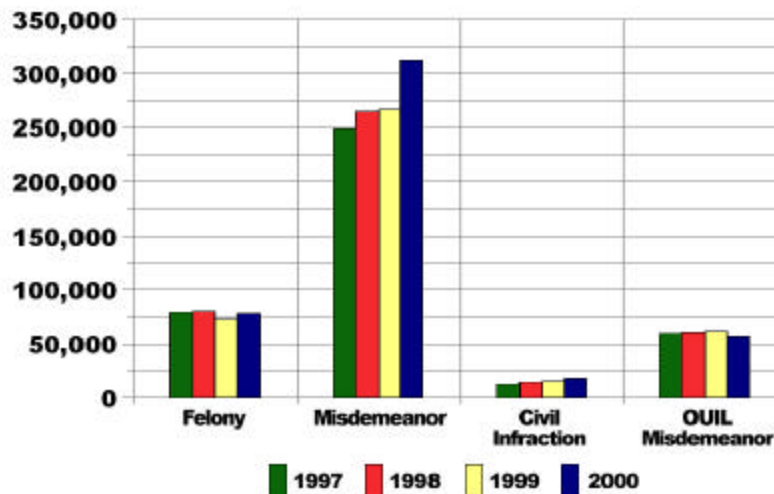
#### TRENDS IN DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL FILINGS

Case Type	1997	1998	1999	2000
Felony	76,018	76,858	68,327	71,356
Misdemeanor	249,221	264,720	266,245	312,788
Civil Infraction	12,327	14,263	15,300	17,649
OUIL Misdemeanor	60,035	61,021	61,744	57,445
OUIL Felony	3,047	3,234	3,722	6,242
<b>Total</b>	<b>400,648</b>	<b>420,096</b>	<b>415,338</b>	<b>465,480</b>



## JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

*Trends in District Court Criminal Filings*



Between 1997 and 2000, criminal filings in district court increased 16%, or by nearly 65,000 cases. Felony filings decreased by 6%, and misdemeanor filings increased by 26%, reflecting to an extent the felony/misdemeanor change in jurisdictional limits for some crimes. Criminal civil infractions increased by 43%.

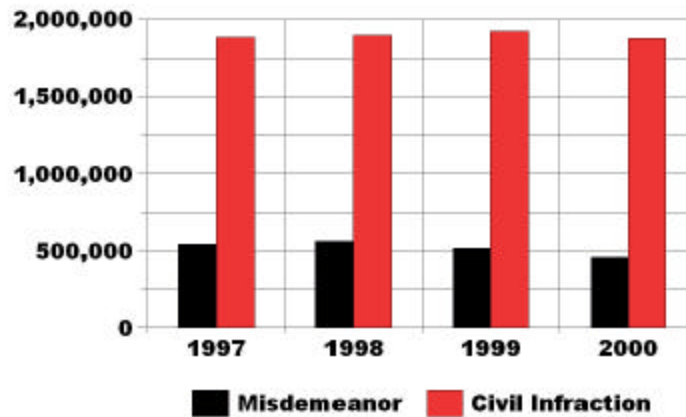
### TRENDS IN DISTRICT COURT TRAFFIC FILINGS

Case Type	1997	1998	1999	2000
Misdemeanor	537,109	559,070	516,146	454,974
Civil Infraction	1,883,901	1,899,501	1,919,164	1,876,729
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,421,010</b>	<b>2,458,571</b>	<b>2,435,310</b>	<b>2,331,703</b>



## DISTRICT COURT

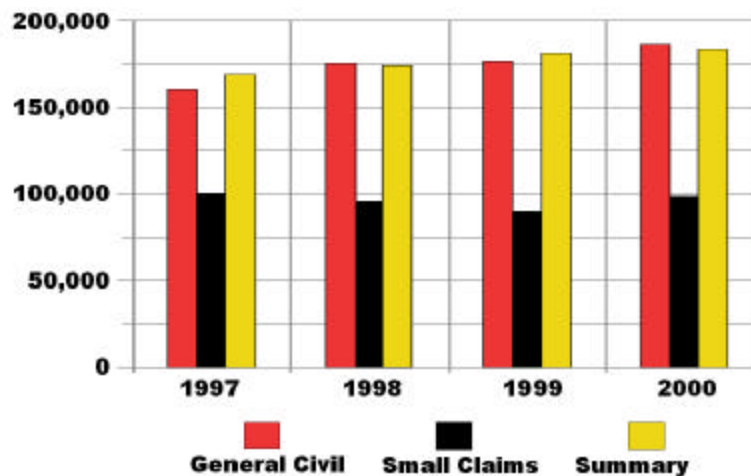
*Trends in District Court Traffic Filings*



Between 1997 and 2000, civil filings increased by over 38,000 cases or 9%. The growth was in general civil and summary cases.

### TRENDS IN DISTRICT COURT CIVIL FILINGS

Case Type	1997	1998	1999	2000
General Civil	160,441	175,580	176,413	185,710
Small Claims	99,824	95,059	89,842	98,173
Summary	168,913	174,094	181,565	183,480
<b>Total</b>	<b>429,178</b>	<b>444,733</b>	<b>447,820</b>	<b>467,463</b>



## JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

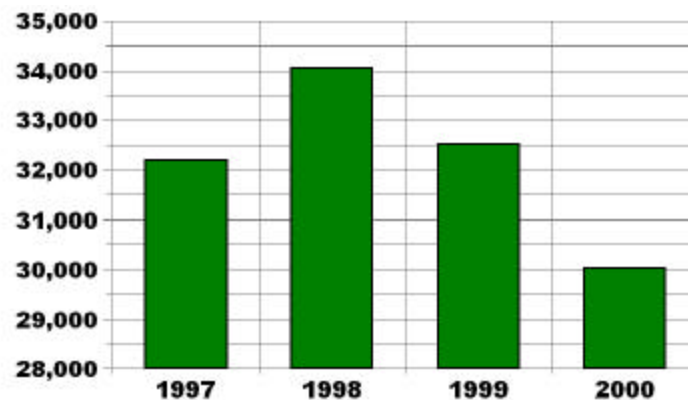
### Municipal Court

Municipal court jurisdiction is limited to claims of \$1,500 or less in civil cases. As of January 1, 1999, municipal courts have civil jurisdiction in cases up to \$3,000 if approved by their local funding unit. Criminal traffic jurisdiction is the same as in district court. When the district court was created by statute in 1968, pursuant to the 1963 Michigan Constitution, most municipal courts in the state were converted into district courts. Today, only five municipal courts remain: Eastpointe, Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, and Grosse Pointe Farms.

Municipal judges must be lawyers, residents, and electors of their municipalities. They are paid by the municipalities and are elected for six-year terms.

#### TRENDS IN MUNICIPAL COURT FILINGS

	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,194</b>	<b>34,055</b>	<b>32,537</b>	<b>30,027</b>



#### MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES

##### **MEP (Municipal, Eastpointe)**

Hon. Norene S. Redmond, joined the court 01/01/00.

Hon. Martin J. Smith

##### **MGP (Municipal, Grosse Pointe)**

Hon. Russell F. Ethridge

##### **MGPF (Municipal, Grosse Pointe Farms)**

Hon. Matthew R. Rumora

##### **MGPP (Municipal, Grosse Pointe Park)**

Hon. Carl F. Jarboe

##### **MGPW (Municipal, Grosse Pointe Woods)**

Hon. Lynne A. Pierce